

Amendments to the Specification:

Replace the paragraph starting on page 4, line 17, with the following amended paragraph:

-- The invention is hereinafter described in more detail by way of one embodiment example shown in the accompanying drawings in which:

Fig. 1 is a lateral view of the sample taker according to an embodiment of the present invention,

Fig. 2 is an axial section through the distal end region of the sample taker of Fig. 1;
and

Fig. 3 is a part axial section through the sample taker according to Fig. 1; and[[.]]

Fig. 4 is a sectional view of the releasable connection of the actuating rod of the sample take of Fig. 3. --

Replace the paragraph starting on page 5, line 17, with the following amended paragraph:

-- The scoop 2 may extend coaxially to the hollow shank 1. It is however also possible to provide the scoop running at a certain angle with respect to the hollow shank 1, as this is shown in Figures 1, 2 and 3. In this case the covering 7 consists of a bending-elastic material so that it automatically bends and adapts to the oblique running of the edge 3 2a of the scoop 2 when the actuation rod 6 is advanced. In order to ensure a secure guiding of the covering 7 on the scoop 2 it is advantageous to provide a holding-down device 8 which comprises a distal continuation 8a which with the scoop 2 determines a gap 9 for guiding the covering 7. The holding-down device 8 may consist of a cylinder section unreleasably fastened in the shank 1 or may form a part of the shank 1. The actuation rod 6 with the covering 7 for its axial displacement is guided by the holding-down

device. With the continuation 8a of the holding-down device 8 it is also achieved that the covering 7 pushed over the trough 5, over the scoop 2 is held in the closure position. --

Add the following paragraph after line 32 on page 6:

-- Fig. 4 shows an example of the releasable connection between the actuating rod 6 and the bar 19. The actuating rod 6 includes a head 6b and a narrow section 6a. The receiver 22 includes a shoulder 22a which is received in the narrow section 6a when the bar 19 is in the locking position. Fig. 4 shows the release position of the bar 19 in which the actuating rod 6 may be removed from the handling means 3. --